

International Intelligence

Bronfman defends Gorbys, tells Jews no protests

Edgar Bronfman, head of the World Jewish Congress and a frequent visitor to Moscow, told a Jerusalem press conference on May 16 that he had met with Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze while in Moscow and presented him with a list of 50,000 names of suspected Nazi war criminals, the *Ukrainian Weekly* newspaper reported June 5.

Bronfman told the *Jerusalem Post* that he handed a message to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir from the Soviet foreign minister.

"The message is bound to increase speculation that the two men will meet shortly," the *Ukrainian Weekly* quotes the *Jerusalem Post*.

Bronfman also stated, "I am not sure it is a very good thing for Jews in the Soviet Union to demonstrate when things are, after all, improving." He also "said that Jewish demonstrations abroad were 'okay,' as long as they were not aimed at the Gorbachov regime."

He told Shamir that the U.S.S.R. was changing its Middle East policy and taking more positive attitudes toward Russian emigration.

Swedish opposition demands resignations

In an ongoing scandal in Sweden, where a former police chief who botched the investigation into former prime minister Olof Palme's murder was discovered to still be running the investigation privately, parliamentary opposition parties, Liberal, Center, and Moderate, are now demanding the resignation of Socialist Carl Lidbom from his position as head of the Commission to Restructure the Swedish Security Police.

The latest press revelations are beginning to go after the secret government apparatus built up since at least the early 1970s by former Stockholm Police Chief Hans Holmér, Lidbom, and Justice Minister Anna

Greta Leijon, who has been forced to resign.

All three were at the center of a secret and illegal Social Democratic intelligence and blackmail apparatus.

Lidbom was personally responsible in the mid-1970s for the proliferation of new laws which created dictatorial state powers under what was called the "Swedish Way" or "Fascism with a democratic face." This was actually modeled on the Soviet "general clause" system of autocratic jurisprudence.

As *EIR* goes to press, Lidbom is refusing to resign.

Laurels for Gorbachov are called premature

"The Western alliance has to work on a long-term strategy, irrespective of who's in power in Moscow," the new West German minister of defense, Rupert Scholz, declared at a meeting of the Atlantic Bridge group in Hamburg on June 10.

Scholz said that any reform and any liberalization in the Soviet Union are welcome in the West, but the principle that "good-sounding words must be followed by concrete deeds" should also be observed by Gorbachov.

Premature Western laurels are not to be given to Gorbachov, warned Scholz, as long as the "Soviet strategy of gaining world hegemony by military and non-military means remains unaltered."

Scholz said that the pace of Soviet armaments in all categories is still "reason for deep concern on our side, and a basis for mistrust of the objectives behind this military policy."

India to upgrade relations with Israel?

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi met with an "American Jewish leader" and promised him that India would upgrade its diplomatic relations with Israel, according to Reuter. He also is supposed to have said that this promise should remain a secret.

Reuter does not say when the prime min-

ister met with the Jewish leader.

Responding to the news, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is quoted as saying that "it was supposed to happen a week ago or something like that. Take another two weeks. History can wait for another two weeks." Peres added that "it will be a limited rise, by the way. We are not talking about a substantial rise" in diplomatic status.

An Indian government spokesman said on June 9, however, that there was no move to upgrade official ties with Israel at this time.

Chinese building Spratly base

The Chinese Navy is building its first permanent base in the Nansha Islands (the Spratlys), according to the official *People's Daily*. The Navy has been laboring for four months to build a maritime observation station in the South China Sea archipelago where Chinese and Vietnamese troops clashed this year.

The Bangkok daily *Nation* noted that the project is part of China's effort to establish de facto administrative control over the islands, which are claimed and partly occupied by Vietnam.

The *China Daily* earlier reported that an air traffic control center will be built off Hainan Island to monitor international flights over the Nanshas and another disputed South China Sea chain, the Xiahas or Paracels.

A Japanese military strategist, Gen. Osamu Namatame, former chief of the Air Self-Defense Force, contends that part of the reason for the Chinese attention to Hainan Island is fear of the possibility of U.S. bases being removed from the Philippines, and an even stronger Soviet presence in Vietnam.

Western press fears for Gorbachov's safety

Amid publication of more letters in the Soviet press to the effect that General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachov "is having a rough time," various U.S. newspapers have now raised

the prospect of his ouster or even assassination. Other articles build on this theme to push for more concessions, such as trade deals, to "save Gorbachov."

In the June 12 *Washington Post*, Robert Kaiser hinted at the assassination threat. "In Moscow today, many Gorbachov supporters speak fearfully of the possibility of 'an accident' befalling the leader. 'So much rests in the hands of just one or two people,' said one official, referring to Gorbachov and [Aleksandr] Yakovlev."

Gorbachov has his own, non-KGB bodyguards, the story continued, and Yakovlev supposedly "no longer sleeps in his Moscow apartment," but at his dacha in the countryside.

The *Los Angeles Times* rang the alarm bells for Gorbachov in a June 10 article. "Liberal supporters of . . . Gorbachov appear increasingly apprehensive that conservative opponents of his program of radical . . . reforms will muster enough support within the Communist Party bureaucracy not only to frustrate his plans but to force him from office."

Sino-Soviet talks on Afghanistan Kampuchea,

The "normalization" talks between the Soviet Union and China now under way in Moscow will emphasize Kampuchea, Agency France Presse (AFP) reports.

The talks are the 12th since 1982, when China and the Soviet Union first moved to improve relations.

Despite developments on the "three obstacles" to normal relations between the two countries constantly cited by Chinese leaders—a complete Soviet pullout from Afghanistan, Vietnamese pullout from Kampuchea, and reduction of Soviet troops on the Chinese border—the Chinese remain cautious.

"The Afghanistan problem is being solved, but we are waiting until all the Soviet troops have gone home," a Chinese source in Beijing told AFP. Chinese special envoy Vice Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei said before he left Beijing, "We hope that

progress can be made on the Kampuchean issue, the biggest obstacle," *China Daily* reported.

The talks are only "regular political consultations," the Chinese said, and Moscow must take "practical steps" toward influencing Vietnam to withdraw its troops. Both sides are looking for ways to increase trade, to be worth about \$5.5 billion by 1990.

According to U.S. sources and the Yugoslav press, however, Moscow is significantly lagging behind in removing troops from Afghanistan. Moscow earlier said 25,000 troops would leave by the end of May, but according to Afghan Minister for Border and Tribal Areas Sulayman La-eq, less than 13,000 soldiers have been pulled out. U.S. intelligence estimates the figure at closer to 10,000.

Under the Geneva agreement, by Aug. 15, half of the Soviet military contingent, or about 50,000 troops, will be removed. "The information that by June 6 only 13,000 Soviet soldiers have left Afghanistan is therefore somewhat surprising," says the Yugoslav news service Tanjug.

Japanese critical of Carlucci

Japanese Foreign Ministry officials have sharply criticized U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, for suggesting that distribution of Japan's foreign aid should be influenced by Western alliance strategic considerations.

Officials said June 8 it would be politically difficult to maintain aid budgets if the Japanese people believed the funds were being spent with strategic considerations in mind.

Carlucci, passing through Japan on his return from the Reagan-Gorbachov summit, had told the Japanese National Press Club that Japan should expand its economic development aid to countries "whose political and economic health is vital to our collective security." He cited the Philippines, Turkey, Portugal, Pakistan, and Afghanistan as countries "in which aid could advance our overall security."

Briefly

● **CHINA** was accused by the U.S. State Department of continuing to supply the world with intermediate-range missiles even as the United States and Russia are allegedly reducing their missiles and missile sales. Washington will seek "serious talks" with Beijing on the matter, former arms negotiator Max Kampelman said in a live June 10 interview via satellite with journalists in five Asian cities.

● **MEXICAN-FRENCH** cooperation has led to the bust of one of the largest international cocaine rings, according to Mexican police sources. Mexican police arrested three French traffickers and deported them to France. French police simultaneously arrested seven other members of the gang, which transshipped Colombian cocaine via Mexico to the United States.

● **EUROPEAN** Community interior ministers at a recent meeting opposed the elimination by the EC of national border controls as proposed in the Single Europe 1992 Act. The ministers, meeting under the rubric of the Trevia Group, declared that the removal of all border controls will be a nightmare for law enforcement efforts to counter drug criminals and terrorists, most of whom are apprehended in routine customs checks.

● **SWEDISH** Communist youth leader Stellan Hermansson has been arrested by Philippines police on Luzon island, along with members of the pro-Soviet terrorist New People's Army. Confiscated pictures of Hermansson show him holding a sub-machine gun. Hermansson led riot and stone-throwing attacks on Nancy Reagan during her Stockholm visit in 1987.

● **RANDOM TERROR** in China is highly unlikely, but Americans in Beijing were told June 10 to beware of a possible terrorist attack from an unidentified "third country." Shortly afterward, the U.S. embassy announced that it had canceled the warning to Americans.